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Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The Hon. Minister is perfectly within his rights if he wants notice. But what we want to know is, whether the information is not available and if it is not available, is it due to some mistake somewhere? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I can just now give the answer to the main question."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the action taken by the Government on the request of the Malabar District Board to permit payment of salaries to its employees for the month of August 1955 on or before 27th of the month to enable them to meet the expenses connected with the 'Onam' festival of Malayalees which falls on 31st August 1955?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Orders have been issued directing the payment of salary and allowances of all the employees of local bodies and the Government in the Malabar district for August 1955 on the 27th August 1955. So, they will get their salary for the Onam festival."

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sir, is this practice to be followed only in this particular case or is it also to be followed in the case of other important festivals like Deepavali? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think that we once made advance payment for Deepavali also. If the necessity arises, the matter may be considered."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is not the advance payment made only to employees of the Government Transport and not to other Government employees? So, will the Government extend such a concession to other Government servants also? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have already stated that if there is necessity for that, the Government will certainly examine it."

Payment of first instalment of debt under Madras Indebted Agriculturists Act

* *Short Notice Question No.* 18.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has received a memorandum in July 1955 signed by 70,912 peasants in Malabar requesting the Government to extend the period of first instalment of repaying the debt under the Madras Indebted Agriculturists (Repayment of Debts) Act, 1955, up to March 31st, 1956; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The matter is under consideration."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that the tenants are not in a position to pay the first instalment within the prescribed time? If so, will the Government be pleased to take steps as early as possible to safeguard their interests? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, the Act applies to the whole State and we cannot be making an invidious distinction as between district and district. If at all there is any difficulty, it must be experienced all over the State and not in a particular district alone."

* *Short Notice Question No.* 19.—SRI C. H. KANARAN : Will the Hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the agriculturists of Malabar in the last week of June 1955 regarding the extension of time for the payment of the first instalment of the agriculturists' debts as per the Madras Indebted Agriculturists (Repayment of Debts) Act, 1955;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any representation from the Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly from Malabar in this matter; and

(*c*) if so, what action was taken on the same?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) The matter is under consideration."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Sir, cases are pending against thousands and thousands of peasants because they are not able to pay the first instalment within the prescribed time. Eviction proceedings are going on in Malabar. So, will the Government take immediate action in the matter and see that the creditors do not evict them and take away their lands? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The provisions of the Act will operate. If we meddle too much with the credit system of this country, it will be very difficult for people to get credit. As it is, the rural credit system has had a rude shock. So, it is not advisable to further interfere with it."

9-20 a.m. SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, a special appeal was made by the Members of the Legislature from Malabar and also by the peasants and tenants requesting Government for granting extension of time for the payment of instalments due as per the Madras Indebted Agriculturists (Repayment of Debts) Act as, due to heavy rains during last May and consequent floods, people had to suffer very much. In view of this special reason, may